

Small Group Guide

Week of January 28th, 2024

Speaker: Mark Delaney

The Season of Singleness



Icebreaker



- What's the most epic road trip you've ever taken? Share some of the highlights and funny stories from it.
- What's the weirdest food combination you really enjoy?



Discussion



- The sermon talks about how singleness is a gift, not something to just endure. How have you viewed singleness in your own life? What are some ways we can see it as a gift and opportunity?
- Read Genesis 2:15-20. What sticks out to you about how God gave Adam a job and purpose before introducing Eve? How does this change your perspective on singleness?
- Share about a time when you had to surrender a relationship, habit or comfort zone to allow God to do His transformative work. How did God use that season of "rest and surgery" to bless you in new ways?
- The sermon talks about how our pain is not in vain. How have you seen loneliness or longing prepare you to cherish God's blessings when they arrive?
- Read Colossians 2:9-10. How does this passage challenge the idea that we need another person to complete us? Where do you find your identity and completeness?
- Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35. How does this describe some perks of singleness for pursuing God's work and purposes?



Thought for the Group



The sermon teaches us that singleness is a gift from God, not something to just endure. Our culture often sees singleness as something to fix or complete with marriage. But God's word says singleness has value and purpose on its own.

In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul encourages singles to focus on pleasing God, not anxiously seeking marriage. Singleness provides more freedom and flexibility to serve God wholeheartedly.

God gave Adam purpose through work before bringing Eve.

Likewise, singleness is a time to grow our sense of purpose and character before pursuing marriage. It's a season to develop discernment and wisdom in relationships. Even when we feel incomplete or lonely, Colossians 2 reminds us our identity and worth is in Christ, not marital status. Jesus alone fulfills us fully. Rather than just waiting around, we can embrace singleness as a gift to find our calling, establish standards, surrender to God's work in us, and rest in His love.

Our pain is not pointless - God uses longing to prepare our hearts to cherish His blessings. Singleness is not an empty gap but a canvas for God to paint His purposes.

No matter our relationship status, our completeness is in Christ alone. God calls every one of us to know Him more and join His mission.



Next Steps



- Make a list of practical ways you can use your time and abilities to serve God and further His Kingdom, even in small ways. Step out in faith to pursue them.
- Take a true Sabbath - set aside a day to simply receive love from God, reset spiritually, and rest in Him apart from work or productivity.
- Meditate on verses about your identity in Christ (Colossians 2, Ephesians 1, etc). Let your completeness and worth in Him be renewed.